

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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1 **Claim 1** (previously amended): An electromechanical
2 switch incorporating in its switch housing at least one
3 electrically conductive switching element (1) with
4 associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2),
5 wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces
6 away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed
7 by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a
8 region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with
9 the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the
10 switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) is
11 prestressed in a transition area between the switching
12 element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently
13 pressing the switching element (1) against the contact
14 surfaces (2).

1 **Claim 2** (previously amended): The switch according to
2 claim 1, wherein the elastic diaphragm (5) comprises a
3 thermoplastic.

1 **Claim 3** (canceled)

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Claim 4 (currently amended): ~~The~~ An electromechanical switch according to claim 1 incorporating in a switch housing at least one electrically conductive switching element (1) with associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2), wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) is prestressed in a transition area between the switching element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently pressing the switching element (1) against the contact surfaces (2), wherein the switch housing (4; 6) consists of two sections, with a base plate (4) containing the contact surfaces (2) and a cover (6) with an opening (6') through which protrudes a part of the switching element (1) with a diaphragm (5), wherein said two housing sections (4; 6) are preferably connected in self-locking fashion by clamping or welding.

Claim 5 (currently amended): ~~The~~ An electromechanical switch according to claim 1 incorporating in a switch housing at least one electrically conductive switching

4 element (1) with associated electrically conductive contact
5 surfaces (2), wherein an area of the switching element (1)
6 that faces away from the contact surfaces is at least
7 partly enclosed by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also
8 encloses at least a region containing the contact surfaces
9 (2) associated with the switching element (1) and tightly
10 butts against the switch housing (4; 6) wherein said
11 diaphragm (5) is prestressed in a transition area between
12 the switching element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus
13 resiliently pressing the switching element (1) against the
14 contact surfaces (2), wherein the switching element (1) is
15 pin-shaped and has a round or oval cross section while its
16 end (1'), which makes contact with the contact surfaces (2)
17 is preferably rounded into a convex tip.

1 **Claim 6** (currently amended): ~~The~~ An electromechanical
2 switch according to claim 1 incorporating in a switch
3 housing at least one electrically conductive switching
4 element (1) with associated electrically conductive contact
5 surfaces (2), wherein an area of the switching element (1)
6 that faces away from the contact surfaces is at least
7 partly enclosed by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also
8 encloses at least a region containing the contact surfaces
9 (2) associated with the switching element (1) and tightly
10 butts against the switch housing (4; 6) wherein said
11 diaphragm (5) is prestressed in a transition area between

12 the switching element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus
13 resiliently pressing the switching element (1) against the
14 contact surfaces (2), wherein, in the area where it rests
15 against the switching element (1) and/or in the
16 transitional transition area between the switching element
17 (1) and its connection to the switch housing (4; 6), the
18 diaphragm (5) is provided on its inside and/or outside with
19 one or several notches (7).

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1 **Claim 7** (previously amended): The switch according to
2 claim 1, wherein the switching element (1) comprises a
3 metal.

1 **Claim 8** (previously amended): The switch according to
2 claim 1, wherein three or four contact surfaces (2) are
3 associated with one switching element (1).

1 **Claim 9** (previously amended): ~~The~~ An electromechanical
2 switch according to claim 1 incorporating in a switch
3 housing at least one electrically conductive switching
4 element (1) with associated electrically conductive contact
5 surfaces (2), wherein an area of the switching element (1)
6 that faces away from the contact surfaces is at least
7 partly enclosed by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also

8 encloses at least a region containing the contact surfaces
9 (2) associated with the switching element (1) and tightly
10 butts against the switch housing (4; 6) wherein said
11 diaphragm (5) is prestressed in a transition area between
12 the switching element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus
13 resiliently pressing the switching element (1) against the
14 contact surfaces (2), wherein the contact surfaces (2)
15 comprise contact pins (3) whose ends (2) facing the
16 switching element (1) are hemispherical or mushroom-shaped.

1 **Claim 10** (currently amended): The switch according to
2 claim 1, wherein the switch housing ~~or the switch housing~~
3 ~~sections~~ (4; 6) ~~comprise~~ comprises a 2-component injection-
4 molded plastic material.

1 **Claim 11** (currently amended): Use of a switch per one
2 of the claims ~~1 to 10~~ 1, 2 and 4-10 in miniaturized devices
3 ~~and especially in hearing aids.~~

1 **Claim 12** (previously presented): The switch according
2 to claim 1, wherein the elastic diaphragm (5) comprises an
3 elastomeric material.

1 **Claim 13** (new): An electromechanical switch
2 incorporating in its switch housing at least one

c/ 3 electrically conductive switching element (1) with
4 associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2),
5 wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces
6 away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed
7 by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a
8 region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with
9 the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the
10 switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) is
11 prestressed in a transition area between the switching
12 element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently
13 pressing the switching element (1) against the contact
14 surfaces (2) (to establish an electrically conductive
15 connection between the contact surfaces)

1 **Claim 14** (new): The use of the switch according to
2 claim 11, wherein the miniaturized devices are hearing
3 aids.
